

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR, US

SUBJ: US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: CALOGERAS-STEARN'S MEETING
ON APRIL 26

REF: A. ATHENS 3219; B. ATHENS 3155

1. CALOGERAS AND STEARN'S MET AS SCHEDULED THIS MORNING,
APRIL 26 TO DISCUSS FURTHER THE QUESTION OF TATOI AND
WHETHER A JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENT SHOULD BE ISSUED AT THE END
OF ROUND II.

2. CALOGERAS SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH TZOUNIS STEARN'S
NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE APPROACH CALOGERAS HAD OUTLINED
YESTERDAY WHEREBY PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WOULD MAKE A
PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE RESULTS OF ROUND II "WITH US
APPROVAL." AFTER CONSIDERING THE OBJECTIONS RAISED BY STEARN'S
THE GREEK SIDE WAS PREPARED TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION AND
WAS MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE IDEA OF A JOINT ANNOUNCE-
MENT. THEY STILL BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PREVIOUSLY
SUBMITTED AMERICAN DRAFT (REF. B) DID NOT RPT. NOT
MEET GREEK NEEDS.

3. STEARN'S THEN SHOWED CALOGERAS THE COMPRESSED DRAFT
(REF. A) WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED BY THE AMERICAN SIDE AFTER HIS
CONVERSATION WITH CALOGERAS THE DAY BEFORE. HE EMPHASIZED
THAT WASHINGTON'S COMMENTS ON THIS SECOND DRAFT HAD NOT RPT
NOT BEEN RECEIVED AND THAT CALOGERAS SHOULD, THEREFORE, REGARD

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THE TEXT AS UNOFFICIAL AND ILLUSTRATIVE. CALOGERAS READ THE

DRAFT AND EXPRESSED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH IT. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE GREEK SIDE STILL WISHED TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO THE CLOSING OF THE AREA COMMUNICATIONS OFFICES (ATO) AT TATOI. HE ASKED WHETHER STEARNS HAD HEARD ANYTHING YET FROM WASHINGTON ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. STEARNS REPLIED NEGATIVELY AND REPEATED HIS PREVIOUS ARGUMENTS AGAINST COMPLICATING THE BASE NEGOTIATIONS BY INJECTING INTO THEM THE TATOI PROBLEM. CALOGERAS SAID THAT THE REQUEST THAT TATOI BE CLOSED HAD COME "DIRECT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE." CALOGERAS HAD EXPLAINED TO BOTH TZOUNIS AND MOLYVIATIS THE OBJECTIONS RAISED BY STEARNS. THEIR RESPONSE HAD BEEN TO INSTRUCT CALOGERAS NOT RPT NOT TO YIELD ON THIS POINT. HE HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO IT.

5. STEARNS SAID THAT HE CONTINUED TO DOUBT THAT WASHINGTON WOULD AGREE TO ACCEPT CLOSING OF THE ATO FACILITY AT TATOI AS A LAST-MINUTE CONDITION UPON WHICH ALL OTHER DECISIONS WOULD DEPEND. HE ADVISED CALOGERAS TO RECOMMEND TO HIS SUPERIORS THAT TATOI BE CONSIDERED OUTSIDE THE CONTEXT OF ROUND II. CALOGERAS SAID THAT HE WOULD DO SO BUT, IF CARAMANLIS HAD PERSONALLY FOCUSED ON THE TATOI FACILITY, HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT HIS CHANCES OF OBTAINING MORE FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONS.

6. IN THAT CASE, SAID STEARNS, IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO RECESS ROUND II BY APRIL 30 AND MAKE NO RPT NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS ACHIEVED TO DATE. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES ALL US FACILITIES IN GREECE WOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON THEIR PRESENT BASIS, ALTHOUGH HOMEPORTED PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS WOULD PROBABLY BEGIN TO DEPART. STEARNS THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD GAIN ADDITIONAL TIME WITHOUT NECESSARILY PREJUDICING THE AGREEMENTS ALREADY REACHED. HE WONDERED, HOWEVER, WHETHER A PROCEDURE OF THIS KIND WOULD NOT CREATE MORE POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR THE GREEK GOVERNMENT THAN IT WOULD SOLVE. IT SEEMED TO HIM UNLIKELY THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH TO ENTER DISCUSSIONS IN NATO WITH SUCH AN AMBIGUOUS ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING ITS
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BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US.

7. CALOGERAS PICKED UP THE REFERENCE TO GREECE'S NATO DISCUSSIONS AND SAID THAT TZOUNIS WAS IN FAVOR OF A JOINT REPORT TO NATO ON THE RESULTS OF ROUND II AND HAD ASKED CALOGERAS TO ELICIT AMERICAN IDEAS. STEARNS SAID THAT WHEN THE ROUND II NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEGUN HE HAS ASSUMED THAT A JOINT REPORT TO NATO WOULD BE MADE AT THE CONCLUSION OF

THE ROUND. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE GREEK SIDES' RELUCTANT TO CONSIDER A JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENT AND ITS BELATED INTRODUCTION OF TATOI INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD LED HIM TO QUESTION THIS ASSUMPTION. HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR THAT THE GREEK SIDE WAS AGAIN CONSIDERING A JOINT REPORT TO NATO AND THE US DELEGATION WOULD PREPARE A PRELIMINARY DRAFT WHICH HE WOULD SHOW INFORMALLY TO CALOGERAS EARLY IN THE WEEK. HE REMINDED CALOGERAS THAT THE TONE AND CONTENT OF A JOINT REPORT TO NATO WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF A JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENT. IF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WANTED A BARE-BONES PUBLIC STATEMENT FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS THEY COULD NOT EXPECT AN EFFUSIVE REPORT TO NATO.

8. CALOGERAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GREEK SIDE COULD NOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD CONVEY STEARNS' OBSERVATIONS TO BITSIOS SOONEST, AND WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH STEARNS WHEN HE HAD SEEN THEM. MEANWHILE, HE AND STEARNS AGREED THAT THE 5TH PLENARY SESSION WOULD BE HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 26.

9. COMMENT: IT IS MILDLY ENCOURAGING THAT THE GREEK SIDE SEEMS TO BE BACKING AWAY FROM THEIR EARLIER REJECTION OF THE IDEA OF A JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THE SHIFT IN THEIR POSITION IS DOUBTLESS RELATED TO THEIR APPARENT INTEREST IN A JOINT REPORT TO NATO. WE ARE PREPARING A DRAFT OF THE LATTER WHICH WE WILL CABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMENT AND WILL SHOW CALOGERAS INFORMALLY ON MONDAY. AS CALOGERAS' REMARKS TO STEARNS MAKE IT CLEAR, THE TATOI QUESTION IS STILL IN THE AIR; HOWEVER, THE PROSPECT OF RECESSING ROUND II WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS ACHIEVED, WHICH WOULD NOT APPEAR PARTICULARLY TROUBLESOME TO US, MAY BE UNAPPEALING TO THE GREEKS, SINCE IT WOULD DENY THEM THE POLITICAL BENEFITS OF AN OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDG-
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MENT OF PROGRESS MADE IN ROUND II.
THE PROSPECT OF RECESSING WITHOUT AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT MAY THEREFORE LEAD THE GREEKS TO RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION ON TATOI.
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